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INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 1549  
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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0271  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0690  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0467  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0210  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0960  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 0169  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 3040  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 0088  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1302  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0253  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0121  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1013  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 2283  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0229  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0110  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0382  
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 0774  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2011

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [KU](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ COMPACT: GOK UNDECIDED ABOUT HOSTING LATE OCTOBER PREP GROUP

REF: STATE 165112

Classified By: Economic Counselor Timothy A. Lenderking for Reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) As instructed reftel, Econcouns discussed reftel demarche and upcoming Iraq Compact (ICI) events with UK DCM Jamie Bowden on October 7. Bowden said UK Ambassador had raised the Iraq Compact with MFA U/S Jarallah that morning, and had been told the GOK was still undecided about hosting the high-level Prep Group meeting at the end of October. Jarallah had told UK Ambassador that the probable opening of the Kuwaiti National Assembly on or about October 30 would not/not be an obstacle to Kuwait's hosting the Prep Group meeting, should the GOK agree to host the meeting. Jarallah also told the UK Ambassador the GOK was frustrated with the GOI's inability to process pre-existing offers of assistance.

He said the GOK was not receiving adequate information about the implementation of Kuwait-funded projects. (Note: Jarallah's comments echo complaints from the Kuwait Fund, whose Chairman Abdulwahab Al-Bader told Econcouns September 26 he was frustrated with shifting Iraqi health priorities in the south, which were delaying USD 60 million in projects including upgrading the main hospital in Basra. Al-Bader lamented having to manage projects in Iraq by "remote control," which he said was unique among the Kuwait Fund's 700 projects worldwide. End Note.)

¶2. (C) Econcouns followed up on the hosting of the Prep Group meeting with MFA Director of Follow-up and Coordination Khalid Al-Maqamis on October 8, noting there were conflicting reports about Kuwait's offer, with some senior Iraqi

officials apparently viewing it as firm. Al-Maqamis echoed U/S Jarallah, saying he believed the GOK had not confirmed that it would host the meeting and that the matter was still under consideration. Econcouns stressed the importance of Gulf venues for ICI events, which reinforce Iraqi reintegration into the region, and encouraged Kuwait to follow through on the late October meeting.

¶3. (C) Al-Maqamis added he had received an invitation from UNDP to attend the October 9 technical working group in Baghdad. He said he had no qualms about traveling to Baghdad, as he had done so in the past, but there was not sufficient lead time to get there for the meeting. He did not believe anyone from GOK would attend, but he hoped to be briefed on the outcome and next steps. Econcouns stressed it was essential for the success of the ICI for Kuwait and other donors to remain fully engaged.

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